

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /009 W
-----171026Z 075872 /13

P R 170700Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4624
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0269
T

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (SEELYE, TALCOTT W).
SUBJ: SEELYE TRIP

REF: STATE 030994

1. ASSUMING THAT POLICY-LEVEL GSDR OFFICIALS RECEIVE AMBASSADOR SEEL
YE,
AND THIS MAY NOT BE KNOWN UNTIL LAST MINUTE, EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT
SEELYE TAKE FOLLOWING LINE IN HIS DISCUSSIONS AT MOGADISCIO. OUR
INTENTION, IN IMPARTING THIS LINE, WOULD BE TO SUGGEST POSSIBLE AREAS
OF COMMON INTEREST IN CHANGING POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF HORN OF AFR
ICA
AND MAKE CLEAR THAT DOOR IS OPEN TO NEW ADMINISTRATION IN WASHINGTON,
WITH AS LITTLE DAMAGE AS POSSIBLE TO SOMALI PRIDE. WE WOULD WELCOME
AMBASSADOR SEELYE'S COMMENTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

2. BEGIN TALKING POINTS: USG CONTINUES TO HOPE FOR IMPROVEMENT IN U
S/
SOMALI BILATERAL RELATIONS AND NEW CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS PREPARED
TO TAKE CONCRETE STEPS TO DEMONSTRATE ITS COMMITMENT TO IMPROVED
RELATIONS, PROVIDED GSDR MATCHES USG EFFORTS.

3. WE RESPECT GSDR'S CHOICE OF INTERNAL POLITICAL MODELS,
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ITS ACHIEVEMENTS AND ITS SOVEREIGN RIGHT TO PICK ITS FRIENDS.
OUR STRATEGIC INTERESTS IN INDIAN OCEAN AND HORN OF AFRICA CENTER
ON ACTIVITIES OF THIRD COUNTRIES; THEY DO NOT THREATEN SOMALIA.
ALL WE WANT IS MORE EVEN-HANDED GSDR FOREIGN POLICY, IN WHICH US
INTERESTS ARE CONSIDERED ON THEIR OWN MERITS AND US IS ABLE TO
EXCHANGE VIEWS WITH GSDR IN FRIENDLY, NON-POLEMICAL WAY, EVEN ON
OCCASIONS WHEN WE CANNOT AGREE. GSDR'S HELPFUL POSITION ON

PUERTO RICO SHOWED THIS WAS POSSIBLE, AND WAS APPRECIATED BY USG.

4. IN USG VIEW, MORE EVEN-HANDED GSDR FOREIGN POLICY WOULD BE ADVANAGEOUS TO SOMALIA, AS WELL AS US, BY REDUCING GSLR'S ISOLATION FROM IMPORTANT WESTERN, MODERATE ARAB AND THIRD WORLD COUNTRIES AND BY OPENING POSSIBLE NEW SOURCES OF POLITICAL AND FINANCIALSUPPORT FOR GSDR. GSDR AND USG INTERESTS MAY BE FOUND TO COINCIDE IN CERTAIN AREAS.

5. REALISTICALLY, USG DOES NTT EXPECT RADICAL AND SUDDEN REORIENTATION OF US AND GSDR POLICIES. RATHER, WE WOULD LOOK FORWARD TO GRADUAL WARMING OF RELATIONS, MARKED BY MORE PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS AND EXPLOATION OF WAYS IN WHICH TWO COUNTRIES CAN HELP EACH OTHER.

6. WE BELIEVE CONTINUOUS HIGH-LEVEL SUPPORT IS NECESSARY ON BOTH SIDES TO ENSURE THAT GOOD INTENTIONS ARE CARRIED NOUT AT ALL LEVELS OF BILATERAL CONTACT. PRESIDENT CARTER AND SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE PUT HIGH VALUE ON RENEWING TIES OF FRIENDSHIP WITH PROUD AND IMPORTANT NATION AT ONE OF CROSSROADS OF WORLD.

7. AT THIS STAGE, USG IS SPECIALLY INTERESTED IN CONTINUED ESTRAIT, BY ALL PARTIES, IN SETTLEMENT OF REGIONAL DISPUTES; AN END TO A PRIORI CONDEMNATION OF US INITIATIVES, I.E., SOUTHERN AFRICA, IN SOMALI OFFICIAL MEDIA AND INTERNATIONAL FORA; RECIPROCITY OF TREATMENT BETWEEN US AND SOMALI MISSIONS, I.E., CONFIDENTIAL

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FREER TRAVEL, INCREASED ACCESS TO GSDR OFFICIALS, WILLINGNESS OF GSDR OFFICIALS TO ACCEPT OCCASIONAL OFFICIAL US INVITATIONS AND AN END TO HARASSMENT OF US DIPLOMATS BY THIRD-COUNTRY AGENCIES, I.E., IMPLANTATION OF LISTENING DEVICES.

8. FOR ITS PART, AND ASSUMING PROGRESS ON POLITICAL SIDE, USG CAN UNDERTAKE SUPPORTIVE ACTION IN FOLLOWING AREAS:

A) U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENT

-. WESTINGHOUSE

2. N-REN

3. CALTEX

B) US/SOMALI TRADELC

1. GSDR IS BENEFICIARY OF US GENERILIZED SYSTEM OF PREFERENCES.

2. US EMBASSY IS WORKING TO INTEREST US DEPARTMENT STORES IN SOMALI FINISHED LEATHER GOODS AND HANDICARFTS.

C) USG AID:

OFFER TO RESUME AID ON SMALL SCALE REMAINS ON BOOKS.

D) SPORTS:

USG HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING IN PAST, I.E., US BASKETBALL COACH WILLIE LOVING ARRIVED AT MOGADISCIO FEBRUARY 6, AND WE ARE DISPOSED TO CONSIDER FURTHER REQUESTS FOR SPORTS COOPERATION IN FAVORABLE LIGHT.

E) UNCOMPLETED EMBASSY COMPOUND:

USG RESPONDED TO GDR'S LETTER PROPOSING AN EXCHANGE OF PROPERTIES SIX MONTHS AGO AND STILL AWAITS A FOLLOW-THROUGH. WE WISH TO MOVE FORWARD WITH NEGOTIATIONS IN ORDER TO REMOVE THIS LONG-STANDING IRRITANT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS.

9. AS RELATIONS WARM, USG IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER MORE AMBITIOUS COOPERATIVE EFFORTS. SPECIALLY, WE SEE AN AREA OF MUTUAL INTEREST IN ARAB FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO GSDR. WITHIN LIMITS OF GSDR'S POLICY OF NONALIGNMENT AND OF USG'S MEANS, PROCESS OF MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION CAN GO AS FAR AS GDR DESIRES.
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END TALKING POINTS.

10. EMBASSY HAS NO DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT CAIRO CONFERENCE BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT EGYPTIAN AMBASSADOR AT MOGADISCIO PLANS RETURN TO CAIRO LAST WEEK FEBRUARY ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS, PERHAPS CIRCUMSTANTIAL EVIDENCE THAT CONFERENCE WILL TAKE PLACE AND THAT GSDR WILL BE REPRESENTED. PRESIDENT SIAD'S TRAVEL PLANS ARE ALWAYS CLOSELY GUARDED SECRET.
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